Special Issue

Tetrodotoxin: Chemistry, Toxicity, Source, Distribution and Detection

Message from the Guest Editors

Tetrodotoxin (TTX), a natural toxin exhibiting extreme neurotoxicity, was traditionally considered to be restricted to warm water in Asian countries. Evidence shows that risk is also present in the Pacific, Mediterranean, and European waters. In addition, few studies have been conducted on the presence of TTX in marine species other than fish from the Tetraodontidae family. Increasing interest in this potent neurotoxin has led to findings in different fishery species (fish, bivalves, and gastropods) from Europe, New Zealand, and China. Changing climate conditions and imminent increases in sea surface temperatures of coastal waters in many locations around the world have triggered the need to monitor TTX. Data regarding the incidence of this toxin in locations where this toxin was not included in the monitoring plans are needed in order to perform an appropriate risk assessment. The origins of TTX remain controversial: Bacteria from the genera *Vibrio*, *Alteromonas*, *Shewanell*a, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Aeromonas* have been identified as causative agents of this potent toxin.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2020)

Marine Drugs

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 5.4
CiteScore 10.1
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/34030

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

During the past few decades there has been an ever increasing number of novel compounds discovered in the marine environment. This is exemplified by the robust preclinical and clinical pipeline that currently exists for marine natural products. *Marine Drugs* is inviting contributions on new advances in marine biotechnology, pharmacology, chemical ecology, synthetic biology, and genomics approaches related to the discovery of therapeutically relevant marine natural products. Our goal is to share your contribution in a timely fashion and in a manner that will be valued by the scientific community.

Editor-in-Chief

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